

1-1 By: Kolkhorst, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Shapiro) H.B. No. 2504
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 11, 2009;
1-3 May 11, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
1-4 Education; May 22, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 22, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to requiring a public institution of higher education to
1-9 make available to the public on the institution's Internet website
1-10 certain undergraduate course information.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
1-13 amended by adding Section 51.974 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 51.974. INTERNET ACCESS TO COURSE INFORMATION. (a)
1-15 Each institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003,
1-16 shall make available to the public on the institution's Internet
1-17 website the following information for each undergraduate classroom
1-18 course offered for credit by the institution:

1-19 (1) a syllabus that:

1-20 (A) satisfies any standards adopted by the
1-21 institution;

1-22 (B) provides a brief description of each major
1-23 course requirement, including each major assignment and
1-24 examination;

1-25 (C) lists any required or recommended reading;
1-26 and

1-27 (D) provides a general description of the subject
1-28 matter of each lecture or discussion;

1-29 (2) a curriculum vitae of each regular instructor that
1-30 lists the instructor's:

1-31 (A) postsecondary education;

1-32 (B) teaching experience; and

1-33 (C) significant professional publications; and

1-34 (3) if available, a departmental budget report of the
1-35 department under which the course is offered, from the most recent
1-36 semester or other academic term during which the institution
1-37 offered the course.

1-38 (a-1) A curriculum vitae made available on the
1-39 institution's Internet website under Subsection (a) may not include
1-40 any personal information, including the instructor's home address
1-41 or home telephone number.

1-42 (b) The information required by Subsection (a) must be:

1-43 (1) accessible from the institution's Internet website
1-44 home page by use of not more than three links;

1-45 (2) searchable by keywords and phrases; and

1-46 (3) accessible to the public without requiring
1-47 registration or use of a user name, a password, or another user
1-48 identification.

1-49 (c) The institution shall make the information required by
1-50 Subsection (a) available not later than the seventh day after the
1-51 first day of classes for the semester or other academic term during
1-52 which the course is offered. The institution shall continue to make
1-53 the information available on the institution's Internet website
1-54 until at least the fourth anniversary of the date on which the
1-55 institution initially posted the information.

1-56 (d) The institution shall update the information required
1-57 by Subsection (a) as soon as practicable after the information
1-58 changes.

1-59 (e) The governing body of the institution shall designate an
1-60 administrator to be responsible for ensuring implementation of this
1-61 section. The administrator may assign duties under this section to
1-62 one or more administrative employees.

1-63 (f) Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, each
1-64 institution of higher education shall submit a written report

2-1 regarding the institution's compliance with this section to the
2-2 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
2-3 representatives, and the presiding officer of each legislative
2-4 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher
2-5 education.

2-6 (g) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board may adopt
2-7 rules necessary to administer this section.

2-8 SECTION 2. Section 51.974, Education Code, as added by this
2-9 Act, applies beginning with the 2010 fall semester.

2-10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-14 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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